(b) whether it is also a fact that the project is likely to hinder considerably the agricultural research in the country and the tie up would virtually bring the agricultural research under private sector;

(c) if so, what are the considerations which weighed with Government to enter into such collaboration; and

(d) what precautionary measures have been taken by Government against the privatisation of agricultural research in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Import of white cement by NAFED

1751. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2301 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1987 and state:

(a) the licence under which the import of white cement by NAFED was made;

(b) whether the letter of credit opened by NAFED for import of white cement bore the import licence number which was issued to NAFED as an incentive for exports; and

(c) what provision of import policy was mentioned in the said letter of credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) NAFED was issued an additional licence for import in 1983-84 as incentive against exports. Accordingly it placed order for import of white cement. Subsequently, it was understood by NAFED that the import of white cement was under OGL for stock and sale and its import did not require additional licence. NAFED claimed its clearance under OGL under 1984-85 policy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The provision of Import Policy mentioned in the said letter of credit was:

> OGL Appendix 6, List 8, Part III, Item No. 33 of AM - 1984-85.

Editing of T.V. News Bulletin

1752. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that editing of the News Bulletin for telecast by Doordarshan is done at the Ministerial level instead of by the Producers and Editors of News Bulletin and that, more often than not, minute instructions are issued changes in the News Bulletins thereby hampering their functioning in a professional manner; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Closure of DCM Mills without payment of wages to workers

1753. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Cloth and General Mills management had recently decided to close down the

Mills without the payment of wages to 6000 old workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action for the payment of wages to the workers of the Delhi Cloth Mills; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The management of Delhi Cloth and General Mills submitted an application on 27-3-1985 to the Delhi Administration for permission under Section 25(0) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to close down the unit with effect from 1-7-1985. The reasons stated by the management to close down the Mill relate, among others, to the factory buildings being very old, the location and operation of the Mill at the site being violative of the land use specified in the Master Plan for Delhi, the dense population in the vicinity being exposed to hazards of pollution, traffic, fire and unhealthy environment and it being not economically viable to run the Mill.

The Delhi Administration, the appropriate authority under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, refused permission to the management to close down the Mill on 15-4-1985, whereupon the management filed a writ petition in the Delhi Hight Court against the order of the Delhi Administration rejecting the Company's application for closure. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Boosting of housing activities for letting out

1754. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rent laws in the country which are heavily weighed in favour of tenants, resulting bad physical condition of the houses and discourage the construction of houses for letting out;

(b) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to States to amend rent laws, in order to boost construction of houses in the country; and

(c) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to give a fillip to housing activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Rent Control is a State subject and this Ministry is administratively concerned with Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958. However, representations are received in this effect from time to time.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present. However, amendment of Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 is under consideration which may become a model Act for the State Governments and in turn boost housing activity.

Screening of serial 'Tamas'

1755. SHRI RAM CHADRA VIKAL:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any controversy has arisen on the telecasting of the serial 'Tamas';

(b) if so, what is the feed back received by Government regarding this serial and whether any survey has been carried out about the viewers' reactions by any official or non-official agency, if so, the details thereof;